

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 60-24***  
***March 4, 2004***

***Information Technology***  
***GLOBAL TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM***

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**OPR:** W/CIO14 (M. Sikorski)  
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***SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:*** This directive supersedes NDS Policy Directive 60-24, Global Telecommunications System, effective February 14, 2003.

1. The Global Telecommunication System (GTS) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) connects meteorological centers throughout the world for the exchange of weather related data. It is comprised of a variety of terrestrial and satellite based weather related telecommunications circuits, operated by WMO Member countries. This directive establishes the framework for National Weather Service (NWS) participation in international data exchange via the GTS.
2. The objective of this policy is to ensure GTS data exchange is effectively conducted between the United States and selected Member countries as prescribed by the WMO. It is the policy of the NWS that it will equally share the cost for GTS circuitry established between it and the other Member country.
3. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:
  - 3.1 The Assistant Administrator (AA) for Weather Services is responsible for ensuring NWS compliance with WMO Global Telecommunications System policy.
  - 3.2 The Chief Information Officer (CIO) is responsible for ensuring international commitments of the NWS regarding Global Telecommunications System (GTS) operations are met.
  - 3.3 The Operations Support & Performance Monitoring Branch (CIO11), Office of the CIO, is responsible for the coordination of NWS GTS data requirements with other Member countries to ensure the successful exchange of meteorological information.
  - 3.4 The Telecommunications Software Branch (CIO13), Office of the CIO, is responsible for the technology development, infrastructure design, and protocol implementation to support the exchange of data on the GTS.

3.5 The Telecommunications Infrastructure Branch (CIO14), Office of the CIO, is responsible for the acquisition of the telecommunications circuitry needed to support NWS international agreements regarding the GTS.

4. The effectiveness of this policy will be measured by monitoring all telecommunications circuitry associated with the GTS on a 24-hour/day, 7-day/week basis by the NWS Telecommunication Gateway Operations Branch (CIO12), with corrective actions taken as necessary, to ensure the continuous operation of the GTS circuitry.

5. This policy directive is supported by the references and glossary of terms listed in Attachment 1.

Signed by	February 19, 2004
David L. Johnson	Date
Assistant Administrator	
for Weather Services	

**Attachment 1**  
**GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

References

1. Manual on the Global telecommunication System, #386, Volume I, Global Aspect, 1992, ISBN: 92-63-12386-1
2. Manual on the Global Telecommunication System, #386, Volume II, Regional Aspect, 1991, ISBN: 92-63-63386-X

Terms

GTS - Global Telecommunication System

NWS - National Weather Service

WMO - World Meteorological Organization